**PROGRAM IN ETHICS IN SOCIETY**

**Director:** Debra Satz (Philosophy)

**Steering Committee:** Eamonn Callan (Education), Arnold Eisen (Religious Studies), John Ferejohn (Political Science), Barbara Fried (Law School), Agnieszka Jaworska (Philosophy), Scotty McLennan (Dean of Religious Life), Rob Reich (Political Science), Eric Roberts (Computer Science), Debra Satz (Philosophy), Allen Wood (Philosophy), Lee Yearley (Religious Studies)

**Affiliated Faculty:** Kenneth Arrow (Economics, emeritus), Donald Barr (Sociology), Barton Bernstein (History), Michael Bratman (Philosophy), Albert Camarillo (History), Nadeem Hussain (Philosophy), David Kennedy (History), Tamar Schapiro (Philosophy), David K. Stevenson (Pediatrics), Sylvia Yanagisako (Cultural and Social Anthropology)

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Courses given in Ethics in Society have the subject code ETHICSOC. For a complete list of subject codes, see Appendix B.

The Program in Ethics in Society is designed to foster scholarship, teaching, and moral reflection on fundamental issues in personal and public life. The program is grounded in moral and political philosophy, but it extends its concerns across a broad range of traditional disciplinary domains. The program is guided by the idea that ethical thought has application to current social questions and conflicts, and it seeks to encourage moral reflection and practice in areas such as business, international relations, law, medicine, politics, and science.

Current and planned initiatives of the program include:

1. Supporting and fostering ethics research.
2. Supporting innovative teaching focusing on the ethical dimensions relevant to the different disciplines across the curriculum.
3. Establishing a yearly faculty-graduate seminar focusing on topics in ethics and public life.
4. Ethics@Noon, a weekly discussion by faculty, students, and staff on topics of ethical concern.

The program also sponsors several annual public lecture series, including the Tanner Lectures in Human Values and the Wesson Lectures in Problems of Democracy. Students interested in pursuing studies that bring moral and political theory to bear on issues in public life should consult the director. There are many course offerings at Stanford that address moral and political questions. Not all of these courses are crosslisted with the Program in Ethics in Society. Students should consult the director to determine whether such courses may be applied towards an Ethics in Society honors program or minor.

**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM HONORS**

The honors program in Ethics in Society is open to majors in every field and may be taken in addition to a department major. Students should apply for entry at the end of Spring Quarter of the sophomore year or no later than the beginning of the Autumn Quarter of the junior year. Applicants should have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 (B+) or higher. They should also maintain this minimum average in the courses taken to satisfy the requirements.

**Requirements**

1. Required courses (at least one of a or b must be taken at the 100 level):
   a) ETHICSOC 20. Introduction to Moral Theory, or ETHICSOC 170. Ethical Theory: normally taken in the sophomore year.
   b) ETHICSOC 30. Introduction to Political Philosophy, or ETHIC-SOC 171. Political Philosophy: normally taken in sophomore year.

2. One 4- or 5-unit undergraduate course on a subject approved by the honors adviser, designed to encourage students to explore those issues in Ethics in Society that are of particular interest to them. Courses of relevance to the Program in Ethics in Society are offered by members of the program committee and by other departments. Students may also take a course with the honors thesis in mind. To promote a broad interdisciplinary approach, this elective should normally be outside the Department of Philosophy. Students are not restricted to choosing from the sample of such courses included below.

3. ETHICSOC'190. Honors Seminar.
4. ETHICSOC 200A,B. Honors Thesis, on a subject approved by the honors adviser, with the work spread over two quarters.

A typical student takes ETHICSOC 20 or 170 and 30 or 171 in the sophomore year. Upon admission to the honors program as a junior, he or she takes ETHICSOC 190 in the Winter Quarter, ETHICSOC 77 in the Spring Quarter, and requirement 2 (the optional subject) at any time during the junior year, or possibly Autumn Quarter of the senior year. The honors thesis is normally written during the Autumn and Winter quarters of the senior year. Courses taken to fulfill the Ethics in Society honors requirement may be double-counted for Philosophy and other majors; Ethics in Society minors may not double count courses.

**MINORS**

The Ethics in Society minor is open to students in any department who wish to explore moral issues in personal and public life. Students must declare the minor on Axess no later than the last day of Autumn Quarter of their senior year, although they are strongly advised to declare sooner. The student should discuss the minor with an adviser chosen from the Ethics in Society faculty list, and prepare a draft proposal that includes a list of courses planned to fulfill the requirements and the name of the faculty adviser.

A minor in Ethics in Society requires six courses for a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 30 units toward the minor.

**Requirements**

1. Three Ethics in Society courses:
   a) ETHICSOC 20. Introduction to Moral Theory, or ETHICSOC 170. Ethical Theory
   b) ETHICSOC 30. Introduction to Political Philosophy, or ETHICSOC 171. Political Philosophy
   c) ETHICSOC 77. Methodology in Ethics: Translating Theory into Practice

2. Two courses at the 100 level or above that address some dimension of moral or political theory or practice.

3. One course at the 200 level or above that addresses a moral or political problem, in either theory or practice.

The 100-level and 200-level courses should be focused around a central theme such as biomedical ethics, ethics and economics, ethics and politics, or environmental ethics. The courses at the 100 and 200 level are normally taken after completion of ETHICSOC 20 and 30.

Subject to the approval of the Director of the Ethics in Society Program, a course covering similar subject matter in another department or program may be substituted for ETHICSOC 20/170 or 30/171. No course credited to the ETHICSOC minor may be substituted for ETHICSOC 200A/B. Courses taken to fulfill the Ethics in Society minor must be double-counted toward major requirements.

**CITIZENSHIP OPTION**

The citizenship option for the minor introduces students to the theory, history, and practice of citizenship in democracies. When a student declares the minor in EIS on Axess, no notation is made of the citizenship option, and this notation does not appear on transcripts or the diploma. All students taking the citizenship option must take ETHICSOC 198, Community Engagement Internship. In addition to the courses listed in (1) above, students must take a total of three additional classes from a total of two of the following categories. Students may petition to have other relevant courses counted toward the minor.
1. Citizenship and Government Action  
   a) POLISCI 123. Politics and Public Policy  
   b) POLISCI 242T. Social Protection Around the World  
   c) PUBLPOL 164. Comparative Public Policy  
   d) PUBLPOL 182A. Policy Making and Problem Solving at Local and Regional Level

2. Citizenship and Entrepreneurship  
   a) ETHICSOC 108. Ethics and the Professions  
   b) ME 206. Entrepreneurial Design to Eliminate Poverty  
   c) PUBLPOL 180. Social Innovation  
   d) PUBLPOL 181. Environmental Entrepreneurship  
   e) PUBLPOL 195. Business and Public Policy  
   f) URBANST 163C. Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship

3. Citizenship and Education  
   a) EDUC 167. Educating for Equity and Democracy  
   b) EDUC 179B. Youth Empowerment and Civic Engagement  
   c) EDUC 220C. Education and Society  
   d) EDUC 247. Moral Education  
   e) EDUC 304. The Philosophical and Educational Thought of John Dewey

4. Global Citizenship and Non-Governmental Organizations  
   a) POLISCI 143. Non-Governmental Organizations and Development in Poor Countries  
   b) POLISCI 223R. Philanthropy: Effecting Social Change and Innovation in the Public Sector  
   c) PUBLPOL 189. Introduction to Civil Society and the Non-Profit Sector

**GRADUATE STUDIES**

The program’s main provisions for graduate students are seminars on topics in applied ethics.

**COURSES**

**ETHICSOC 20. Introduction to Moral Philosophy** — (Same as PHIL 20.) What is the basis of moral judgment? What makes right actions right and wrong actions wrong? What makes a state of affairs good or worth promoting? What is it to have a good or virtuous character? Answers to classic questions in ethics through the works of traditional and contemporary authors. GER:DB-Hum, EC-EthicReas  
5 units, Win (Schaapiro)

**ETHICSOC 30. Introduction to Political Philosophy** — (Same as PHIL 30.) State authority, justice, liberty, and equality through major works in political philosophy. Topics include human nature and citizenship, the obligation to obey the law, democracy and economic inequality, equality of opportunity and affirmative action, religion, and politics. GER: DB-Hum, EC-EthicReas  
5 units, Aut (Hussain)

**ETHICSOC 77. Methodology in Ethics: Translating Theory into Practice** — (Same as PHIL 77.) Ideally, social policies are informed by ethical thought and reflection, but doing good in the world requires the active translation of moral theory and political philosophy into action. What kinds of empirical data are relevant to social decision making, and how should they be collected, evaluated, and integrated into normative analysis? What assumptions about human nature are in play? How should diverse cultural values be addressed? Case studies from biomedical science, business, and government.  
4 units, Spr (Jones)

**ETHICSOC 78. Medical Ethics** — (Same as PHIL 78.) Introduction to moral reasoning and its application to problems in medicine: informed consent, the requirements and limits of respect for patients’ autonomy, surrogate decision making, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, and abortion. GER:DB-Hum, EC-Gender  
4 units, Spr (Jaworska)

**ETHICSOC 108. Ethics and the Professions** — Ethical challenges facing professionals in society. Readings and case studies. Individual moral obligations in relation to obligations as professionals. Topics: conflict of interest, client/professional privilege, and use of confidential information. Focus is on medicine, law, engineering, and ethical issues common to all professions.  
4 units (Staff) not given 2005-06

**ETHICSOC 131. Children’s Citizenship: Justice Across Generations** — (Same as POLISCI 131.) The development of children into citizens, focusing on major social institutions responsible for their civic education: schools, families, communities, and civil society. How does each institution develop citizenship? What is the relationship between civic education and the reproduction of social equality or inequality? Do children’s rights differ from those of adults? Readings: political theorists on justice, feminist theorists on family and children, court cases on tensions between the state and community interest in education, and social critics on the practice of civic education. GER:DB-SocSci  
5 units, Spr (Reich)

**ETHICSOC 133. Ethics and Politics in Public Service** — (Same as POLISCI 133.) Primarily for freshmen and sophomores who participate or intend to participate in service activities through the Haas Center or register for courses with service learning components. The basis for a connection between an undergraduate’s service activities and academic experiences at Stanford. What does it mean to do public service? Why should or should not citizens do volunteer work? Is public service a good thing? The history, hazards, responsibilities, and dilemmas of doing public service. Historical context of public service work in the U.S., including ethical concerns involved with service. GER:DB-SocSci  
5 units, Aut (Reich)

**ETHICSOC 170. Ethical Theory** — (Same as PHIL 170/270.) Major strands in contemporary ethical theory. Readings include Bentham, Mill, Kant, and contemporary authors. GER:DB-Hum  
4 units, Spr (Jaworska)

**ETHICSOC 171. Political Philosophy** — (Same as PHIL 171/271.) Questions about a just society. Which liberties should a just society protect: economic, political, expressive? What sorts of equality should a just society ensure: opportunity, outcome, economic, political? Can a just society ensure both liberty and equality? Focus is on answers from rival, contemporary theories of justice: utilitarianism, libertarianism, and egalitarian liberalism. GER:DB-Hum, EC-EthicReas  
4 units, Win (Satz)

**ETHICSOC 190. Ethics in Society Honors Seminar** — (Same as PHIL 178.) For students planning honors in Ethics in Society. Methods of research. Students present issues of public and personal morality; topics chosen with advice of instructor.  
3 units, Win (Reich)

**ETHICSOC 198. Community Engagement Internship** — Opportunities for students to engage in community work via the Haas Center for Public Service. Students work with Haas Center staff to design an internship involving community-based research or supported by a Haas Center fellowship or community service work/study, or to serve for an academic year as a tutor in one of the Haas Center’s several K-12 programs in East Palo Alto. May be repeated for credit.  
3-5 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Cotterman)

**ETHICSOC 199. Independent Studies in Ethics in Society**  
1-15 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Staff)

**ETHICSOC 200A,B. Ethics in Society Honors Thesis** — Limited to Ethics in Society honors students, who may enroll once in A and once in B.  
1-5 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Staff)
### American Studies

**AMSTUD 221. Public and Professional Service: Theories and Ethical Practice of Public and Community Service**  
3 units, Spr (Stanton)

### Anthropological Sciences

**ANTHSCI 178. Contagion and Conflict**  
3-5 units (R. Barrett) not given 2005-06

**ANTHSCI 191B/291B. Conduct and Misconduct in Science**  
3-5 units, Win (DeGusta)

### Archaeology

**ARCHLGY 103. History of Archaeological Thought**  
5 units, Win (Meskell)

### Classics, General

**CLASSGEN 317. The Professional Classicist**  
3-5 units, Aut (Gleason)

### Communication

**COMM 131/231. Media Ethics and Responsibilities**  
4-5 units (Glasser) not given 2005-06

**COMM 236G. Democracy, Justice, and Deliberation**  
1-5 units (Fishkin) not given 2005-06

### Computer Science

**CS 201. Computers, Ethics, and Social Responsibility**  
3-4 units, Spr (Johnson)

### Cultural and Social Anthropology

**CASA 90. Theory of Cultural and Social Anthropology**  
5 units, Win (Ebron)

**CASA 108. History of Archaeological Thought**  
5 units, Spr (Meskell)

**CASA 185/285. Environmental Ethics**  
5 units, Win (Gupta)

### Drama

**DRAMA 161/261. Performance and Politics**  
5 units (Rehm) not given 2005-06

### Economics

**ECON 224. Science, Technology, and Economic Growth**  
2-5 units, Win (David)

### French

**FRENGEN 258E. Foundations of Nanoethics: Toward a Rapprochement between Europe and the U.S.**  
3-5 units, Spr (Dupuy)

### History

**HISTORY 236. The Ethics of Imperialism**  
5 units, Aut (Daughton)

**HISTORY 243G/343G. Tobacco and Health in World History**  
5 units, Aut (Proctor)

**HISTORY 259A,B. Poverty and Homelessness in America**  
5 units (Camarillo) not given 2005-06

### Philosophy

**PHIL 174/274. Freedom and the Practical Standpoint**  
4 units, Aut (Ferrero)

**PHIL 377. Topics in Democratic Theory**  
3-5 units (Ferejohn, Satz) alternate years, given 2006-07